2009 declined by 9.3% over the corresponding figure of January-June 2008. This decline in FTAs may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(c) To give a boost to the tourism sector, the Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities. These activities include, advertising, participation in travel fairs, exhibitions, road shows, India evenings, seminars and workshops, Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the current year.

Further, the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism has been expanded so as to provide financial assistance to service providers for the promotion of Medical, Convention and Conference and Domestic Tourism in the country.

Development of tourist places in Himachal Pradesh

2988. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who arrived in the country during the year 2008-09;

(b) the States where maximum number of foreign tourists visited during the year 2008-09 and the earnings from them to Government exchequer during the said period;

(c) whether there are many places in Himachal Pradesh (HP) which could be developed as tourist destinations;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to allocate funds to the State Government to develop those places as tourist destinations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when the funds are likely to be allocated and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2008 and January-June, 2009 are 5.37 million and 2.47 million respectively.

(b) The top 5 States/UTs in India in terms of foreign tourist visits in 2008 are Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Ministry of Tourism does not compile State-wise estimates of earnings from tourism. However, the estimated foreign exchange earning from tourism in India during 2008 and January-June, 2009 are US $ 11747 million and US $ 5007 million respectively.

(c) to (e) Identification and development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central

Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits on the basis of proposals received from them which are complete in all respect as per the scheme guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

During 2008-09, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 2977.66 lakh for 9 tourism projects to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

JNNURM in Jharkhand

2989. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received, if any, for implementation under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in Jharkhand;

(b) the details of the projects approved for implementation indicating volume of funds allocated in respective cases;

(c) the status of implementation thereof; and

(d) the details of proposals rejected, if any, indicating reasons therefor in respective cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (d) Under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), 6 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) were received from the State of Jharkhand, out of which 4 projects have been approved with approved cost of Rs. 76149.48 lakh and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) admissible of Rs. 48,268.31 lakhs. ACA released so far is Rs. 12,067.12 lakhs. List containing details of approved projects is annexed as Statement (*See* below). The work on approved projects has not started. The two remaining proposals *viz.* Transport Master Plan and DPR for Priority Roads for the city of Ranchi were returned to the State Government for modification/in the DPR as per the observations of the Technical Agencies.

Statement

The details of the projects approved in Jharkhand

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Approved cost	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) committed	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Water Supply Scheme, Ranchi	28839.15	23071.32	5767.83